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THE USE OF CORRUGATED PAPER BOARDS IN DRYING PLANTS.

J. Franklin Collins.

At a recent meeting of the New England Botanical Club the writer spoke briefly of a method of drying plants that he had used during the preceding season under certain particularly adverse conditions. Considerable interest in the possibilities of the method was shown by the members present, and numerous questions of a practical nature were asked as to details and results. Partly because this method appears not to be generally known, and partly because it has certain commendable time- and labor-saving features that will appeal to all active collectors, as well as to those who have but little time for the work, the following account of it is here given.

During the discussion of the matter at the meeting the fact (previously unknown to the writer) developed that at least three other members of the Club had, within two years, been using a somewhat similar method (at least as to certain details) in their own field work. Since this meeting the writer has undertaken a few experiments to determine the practical value of certain theoretically interesting details that were brought out by the discussion mentioned. It is not the purpose to enter into details of these experiments, nor into unimportant features of the drying process, but merely to explain briefly its essential points. Any collector can easily modify or elaborate these to suit certain special conditions, or to please his own whims.

The special advantages of the new method, when compared with the old, that will appeal to all whose time is very limited, are (1) that there is no necessity of changing driers, (2) that driers need not be spread out to dry, (3) that colors of flowers and foliage are more perfectly preserved, (4) that plants which formerly took a week to dry can almost invariably be perfectly dried in less than 24 hours, and commonly in less than 12 hours.

The contrasting disadvantages are so few and unimportant that they are hardly worth mentioning. It is argued that the rapid drying contributes to brittleness, that the corrugated boards make ridges on the plants, and that bulky specimens are not easily handled. Neither of the first two have been apparent to any very noticeable extent (certainly to no serious extent) in the writer's experience, and the last is one that exists under almost any generally known method of drying plants.

To one already outfitted with the presses, driers, etc., needed for drying plants by the usual method the added expense in adopting the new one need not necessarily exceed a dollar, for a press a foot in thickness.

Under the particularly adverse conditions mentioned in the opening sentence of this article no driers were obtainable, and only a few second-hand sheets of single-faced corrugated card board. latter were cut into sheets of the proper size, care being taken to have all the grooves run in one direction (across the press). The plants were placed, in the usual manner, in specimen sheets cut from old newspapers; one of these was laid on a corrugated board and another similar board placed on top of it. In this manner the press was built up. Wooden boards of a convenient size were used for the sides. Heavy cords tightly drawn about the press furnished the only available means of applying the pressure, but it answered all practical purposes. In building up the press care was taken to have the smooth side of each corrugated board down (or vice versa), for if odd ones were reversed the corrugations of the two adjoining sheets would interlock and cause deep grooves in the specimen between them. This press was suspended by a wire in such a way as to have the grooves of the paper boards vertical, and the press about four or five feet from the floor. A piece of unbleached cotton sheeting was sewed up in such manner as to suggest, in size and appearance, a dress skirt. By means of a draw-string at the top of this cloth it was fastened tightly about the middle of the suspended press, the bottom (about a foot from the floor) being held open by means of a

stiff wire hoop sewed in at the lower edge. Under this an ordinary lamp with a single \(\frac{5}{8} \) inch wick was set on the floor and kept burning. This lamp heated the air confined under the press and inside the cloth. and drove it up through the grooves of the corrugated boards. lamp consumed less than one cent's worth of oil in ten hours.

This is a brief description of the simple "make-shift" press that first demonstrated the advantages mentioned above. Since returning home the writer has tried certain modifications which show that somewhat better specimens can be obtained, though not so quickly dried, if the press is built up as follows; a corrugated board, a regulation drier, a specimen sheet with the inclosed plant, a drier, a corrugated board, and so on. Although the double-faced corrugated board (smooth on both surfaces) is better to handle, and can be used either side up, it appears doubtful at present if it has any particular advantages otherwise over the single-faced.

Professors M. L. Fernald and K. M. Wiegand have been using corrugated boards with excellent results for the past two seasons to ventilate their field presses. These boards were at first placed an inch or more apart in the press which was otherwise handled in much the manner that is familiar to most of us: but during the past season they were employed as described in the last paragraph, except that one change of driers was made in order to straighten folded leaves, etc. As a result Messrs. Fernald and Wiegand found it possible, in an unusually damp atmosphere, to leave their presses unattended after the first change of driers and to make prolonged collecting trips without fear that the plants left in press would be injured. Mr. J. H. Emerton has recently been using a press, with good results, in which corrugated boards and cotton wadding are the most conspicuous features. During the past summer Dr. H. S. Conard used a press very similar to the one described above in connection with his work at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y. He spoke very enthusiastically of its merits, and some of his suggestions have been adopted here.

In all of these presses the one most important feature is the cheap and efficient ventilation furnished by the corrugated boards, thus allowing the easy and rapid dissipation of moisture, and at the same time precluding all danger of mildew or blackening under ordinary conditions. This statement also applies to presses used in foggy or humid regions. The nearer together in the press these ventilators are placed the more rapid will be the drying process, even if artificial

heat is not used. By applying artificial heat in some such manner as indicated above the drying process is greatly hastened. If one is unable to arrange the plants satisfactorily when they are first put into the press the latter can easily be left for half a day or more, and then opened and the plants rearranged finally, before artificial heat is applied.

Of the various forms or modifications of the corrugated paper board press that the writer has tried none has dried the plants so rapidly as the "emergency" press, without driers, described above. In actual use this press was almost always emptied each day and ready for the new lot of plants before they were ready for the press. It had the disadvantage, mentioned above, however, of not satisfactorily taking care of thick and bulky specimens, especially fern rootstocks, etc., unless a packing of paper, cotton wadding, or something of that sort, was used about the thick parts. This disadvantage is greatly reduced when the regular driers are used along with the corrugated sheets.

This type of press has already clearly demonstrated its great value as a time-saver not only for spermatophytes, but to an even greater extent for mosses, lichens, certain fungi, and, to a somewhat less extent, for algae and fleshy fungi. Soaking-wet sphagna have been completely dried in less than five hours, though these usually require six or more hours in the ventilated press.

More permanent and convenient, though less portable, modifications of the apparatus described above can easily be planned for home use, as has been done at the writer's home and at Brown University. At the former place a small oil stove and a wooden case are used in place of the lamp and cloth; at the latter a small electric heater, costing about \$4.00, which can be plugged into any incandescent lamp socket, is used to supply the heat. Other sources of heat may sometimes be utilized to advantage, for instance, a cook stove, a furnace register, a steam or hot water radiator, steam pipes, etc.

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ERIGERON ACRIS IN NORTHEASTERN AMERICA.

M. L. FERNALD and K. M. WIEGAND.

Erigeron acris L. is the type of a small group of plants which has one or more representatives in nearly all the boreal districts of the northern hemisphere. Until recently members of the group were unknown in New England and adjacent Canada, but we now know one of them as a frequent plant of clearings and open banks as far south as the Rangeley Lakes in western Maine, so near the New Hampshire border that the plant may be sought with confidence in northernmost New Hampshire; another representative of the series has long been known from Labrador but its identity not clearly made out, and this plant has recently been found in Quebec south of the St. Lawrence; and a third plant, of Anticosti, though represented in herbaria, has remained without definite identification until the present time. In studying these plants and their affinities the writers have found it convenient to draw up the following brief synopsis to cover the leading characters.

* Cauline leaves lanceolate, with smooth or slightly ciliate margins, usually much exceeded by the peduncles or the branches of the inflorescence.

E. ACRIS L. Plant more or less hirsute: inflorescence racemose or paniculate, of numerous medium-sized heads (involucres 5–9 mm. high): involucral bracts very hirsute.—Sp. Pl. 863 (1753); Gray, Syn. Fl. i. pt. 2, 219 (1884), in great part.—Said by Dr. Gray to occur in Labrador, but seen by us only from Eurasia and the Rocky

Mountain region. Represented in the East by

Var. ASTEROIDES (Andrz.) DC. Similar in habit, glabrous or only slightly hirsute: peduncles and involucre glandular-puberulent; involucral bracts at most a little hirsute at base.—Prodr. v. 290 (1836). Var. droebachensis Blytt, Norges Fl. i. 562 (1861); Gray, Syn. Fl. i. pt. 2, 220 (1884). E. droebachensis O. F. Muell. Fl. Dan. v. pl. 874 (1782). E. asteroides Andrz. ex Besser, Enum. Pl. Vohl. 33 (1821–22).—Recent clearings, open banks, etc., Gaspé County, Quebec, to Alaska, south to southern New Brunswick, northern Maine, northern Michigan, Colorado, Utah, and Oregon; also Eurasia. In the Northeast known as far south as the Kennebeckasis River, New Brunswick (Norton, coll. Hay), the Mattawamkeag River, Maine (Crystal, coll. Fernald), and the Rangeley Lakes, Maine (Kennebago Lake Trail, coll. Miss Furbish).

Var. oligocephalus, n. var., caulibus solitariis vel caespitosis 6–30 cm. altis hirsutis eglandulosis vel non evidenter glandulosis; capitulis subnutantibus demum erectis solitariis vel 2–8 laxe corymbosis, pedunculis plerumque elongatis valde ascendentibus; involucro 7–10 mm. longo, bracteis lineari-attenuatis appressis hirsutis; radiis lilacinis in siccitatis subcaeruleis discum paullo superantibus.

Stems solitary or tufted, 6-30 cm. high, hirsute, glandless or not obviously glandular: heads at first somewhat nodding, becoming erect, solitary or 2-8 in a loose corymb, the mostly elongate peduncles strongly ascending: involucre 7-10 mm. long; its appressed linearattenuate bracts hirsute: rays lilac (drying bluish), slightly exceeding the disk. - Var. debilis Gray, Syn. Fl. i. pt. 2, 220 (1884) as to Labrador and Hudson Bay plants. E. alpinus β Hook. Fl. Bor.-Am. ii. 18 (1834). E. elatus Greene, Pittonia, iii. 164 (1897), not E. alpinus γ elata Hook. l. c.— Labrador to Mackenzie, south to Gaspé County, Quebec, and Alberta. Examined from the following stations. LABRADOR: near Okak (Weiz); wet calcareous-sandstone crests and slopes, Blanc Sablon, August 6, 1910 (Fernald & Wiegand, no. 4138, TYPE in Gray Herb.). HUDSON BAY (Burke). QUEBEC: gravelly banks of River Ste. Anne des Monts, July 16, 1906 (Fernald & Collins, no. 255). Mackenzie, Fort Good Hope, July 12, 1892 (Elizabeth Taylor, no. 29). Alberta, above Laggan, July 13, 1904 (John Macoun, Herb. Geol. Surv. Can., no. 65,548).

The Weiz material from northeastern Labrador and the Burke specimens from Husdon Bay were included by Dr. Gray in var. debilis, but the more recent collections from southern Labrador and eastern Quebec show that the eastern material differs in several points from the northwestern specimens which were first cited and well characterized in the original description of var. debilis. In true var. debilis the heads are commonly smaller, the peduncles and involucres are obviously glandular-puberulent but scarcely hirsute, the involucral bracts have somewhat squarrose tips, and the rays in dried specimens are roseate and conspicuously longer than the disks. As shown by an authentic specimen given by Hooker to Gray our plant is Hooker's E. alpinus "β. foliis angustioribus, ramis elongatis" from the "Rocky Mountains in elevated situations." 1 Var. oligocephalus also matches very closely the description of E. elatus Greene, but it apparently is not E. alpinus y elata Hook., from which variety Greene derives his specific name. Hooker's E. alpinus y elata was very inadequately described, being distinguished from E. alpinus by the single word "subpedalis," but, whether or not its name can be con-

¹ Hook, Fl. Bor.-Am, ii. 18 (1834).

sidered much better than a *nomen nudum*, a specimen of it given by Hooker to Gray shows it to be a much more leafy plant than *E. acris*, var. *oligocephalus*, with the comparatively short-peduncled heads forming a racemose inflorescence as in true *E. acris* and the var. *asteroides*.

* * Cauline leaves elongate-linear, bristly-ciliate, usually equaling or exceeding all but the uppermost peduncles of the strict raceme.

E. LONCHOPHYLLUS Hook. Fl. Bor.-Am. ii. 18 (1834). E. armerifolius Turcz. in DC. Prodr. v. 291 (1836). E. armeriaefolius Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. viii. 648 (1873), Syn. Fl. i. pt. 2, 220 (1884). E. racemosus Nutt. Trans. Am. Phil. Soc. vii. 312 (1841).—A characteristic plant in saline meadows from the Black Hills and the Saskatchewan Plains westward across the Rocky Mountain region: also in northern Asia. The only eastern material seen by us is from Anticosti (coll. Verrill). This specimen was on a sheet in the Gray Herbarium with other material and seems to have formed the basis for Dr. Gray's record in the Synoptical Flora of E. acris (true) from Anticosti.

WILLIAM GLEASON GOLDSMITH.

October 7, 1910,² passed away at his home in Andover, Mass., William Gleason Goldsmith, a very versatile and gifted man. Born in Andover, November 28, 1832, the eldest son of Jeremiah Goldsmith and Elizabeth Gleason—he was trained for college at Phillips Academy. After the usual four years course at Harvard, he graduated with high honors in 1857, ranking especially high as a Greek scholar. While there he studied botany with Prof. Gray and also studied anatomy. During the year 1858, he read law with Squire Hazen, until he was called to accept the position of Principal of Punchard Free School, which he held from 1858–1886. During a brief inter-

² For the dates in this notice I am indebted to the issue of the Andover Townsman for Friday, October 14, 1910.

¹ The occurrence of *E. lonchophyllus*, a typical plant of saline habitats in the Rocky Mountain region, at an isolated station near the mouth of the St. Lawrence calls to mind the similar occurrence of *Aster angustus* T. & G., which grows in ''wet saline soil'' (*Nelson*) in the Rocky Mountain area, at a single station on the lower St. Lawrence (Cacouna, where it grows at the margin of the salt marsh); and a station of the similar *Aster frondosus* T. & G. on salt marshes at Brackley Point, Prince Edward Island, though otherwise known only on saline spots from Wyoming and Colorado to the Sierra Nevada.

ruption in these duties, resulting from a fire which destroyed the school, he was Peabody Instructor of Natural Sciences at Phillips Academy. After Dr. Taylor's death he finished a period as Principal of the Academy. Under Cleveland's administration he accepted the position of postmaster of Andover, which he filled with preeminent ability from 1886–1895. From 1898–1901 he was Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, a calling to which he devoted his usual zeal and talent. He made two trips to Europe for study and travel, and one to Colorado, where he was much interested in the flora.

But I wished, especially, to say a word concerning Mr. Goldsmith as a student of nature and a teacher. He was one of those humbler men of science, who, though not widely heralded, because they are not known by collections or writings, are none the less worthy to be remembered. He was one of the old type of local naturalist, which is becoming only too scarce. A keen observer — an enthusiastic student — widely read — he was well equipped as a teacher. Endowed with a charming manner and a quiet but irresistible enthusiasm, he could not but inspire those who were fortunate enough to be his pupils with a love for their study and their master. His loyal and admiring students hope to live to do honor to his name and to the thoroughness of his early training. I want also to take this opportunity of acknowledging my debt of gratitude to him. Although long interested in botany, it was primarily to Mr. Goldsmith that I owe my choice of it as a profession. - Albert Hanford Moore, Washington, D. C.

THE AFFINITIES OF A CERTAIN BOREAL VARIETY OF GALIUM.

K. M. WIEGAND.

In connection with a study of *Galium trifidum* and its allies the writer published in 1897 ¹ the variety *Galium trifidum*, var. *subbiflorum* based upon material collected in Colorado by Hall and Harbour (no. 230). The range was given as "Arizona and California to Oregon and the Saskatchewan," and material was then at hand from Arizona,

¹ Wiegand, K. M.— Galium trifidum and its North American Allies, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vol. 24, pp. 389-403. (1897).

Utah, California, Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, and Saskatchewan. The variety was described as being somewhat stouter and with less scabrous stems than the typical form; with larger leaves; pedicels variable in stoutness, rarely two- or even three-flowered, and nearly glabrous; and the following note was added: "This variety approaches G. Claytoni and G. Brandeegei." On another page (p. 391) of the same paper the following statement was made; "It has affinities on the one hand with G. Claytoni, and on the other in its smaller forms with G. Brandegeei."

During the past summer the writer, in company with Prof. M. L. Fernald, obtained some interesting material of Galium in Labrador and Newfoundland which has led to a rather extended study of the material in the Grav Herbarium and the Herbarium of the New England Botanical Club of Galium trifidum, G. trifidum, var. subbiflorum, and G. Clautoni as well as other closely related species and varieties. As a result we both now believe that the var. subbiflorum is much more closely related to G. Claytoni than to G. trifidum, and that. although the variety is intermediate in appearance between these two species, an error in judgment was made in connecting it with G. trifidum. In addition, many sheets were found in the Gray Herbarium from various portions of northeastern America which were labeled G. Claytoni but which it was impossible to distinguish from the G. trifidum, var. subbiflorum of the Rocky Mountains. On the other hand, all gradations were found in the Northeast between this form and the true G. Claytoni. As a result we are both now convinced that unquestionably the var. subbiflorum is more closely related to G. Claytoni and should be transferred to that species and that the range should be extended to include the northeastern specimens mentioned, as follows: -

Galium Claytoni Michx., var. subbiflorum, n. comb.— G. trifidum L., var. subbiflorum Wiegand, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vol. 24, p. 399

(1897).

This variety differs from the typical form principally in the arrangement of the flowers, some of which are borne singly on straight or arcuate, axillary, less stout, often very slightly prickly peduncles of varying length, while other similar peduncles bear two or even three flowers on short ascending pedicels. In the typical *G. Claytoni* the majority of the flowers are borne on stout, straight, glabrous, widely spreading or reflexed occasionally once-forked pedicels in three-rayed bracteate umbels.

As at present understood the range of the var. subbiflorum is from

Labrador and Newfoundland to Maine; Michigan; the Rocky Mountains: and the Pacific Coast states.

Some typical eastern specimens are: — Labrador: Blanc Sablon, July 30, 1910, Fernald & Wiegand, no. 4040. Newfoundland: Birchy Cove, July 22, 1910, Fernald & Wiegand, no. 4039. Quebec: Vicinity of Cap à l'Aigle, July 22, 1905, J. Macoun, no. 68144; in sphagnum, Table-top Mountain, Gaspé County, Aug. 5, 1906, Fernald & Collins, nos. 722, 723; alluvium of Nouvelle River, Nouvelle, Bonaventure Co., July 19 and 20, 1904, Fernald & Collins. New Brunswick: Brackish marsh, Bathurst, July 24, 1902, Williams & Fernald. Nova Scotia: pebbly lake shore, North Sydney, Cape Breton Island, July 21–25, 1901, Howe & Lang, no. 752. Maine: Mt. Desert Island, July 12, 1897, E. F. Williams Michigan: Isle Royale, July and August, 1909, W. S. Cooper, nos. 18, 19, 20; Turin, Marquette Co., June 21, 1901, B. Barlow.

One result of this study is to emphasize more than ever the distinctness of G. trifidum from all of its near relatives. The variety here under discussion has long been a source of confusion, but the discovery of many transitions to G. Claytoni rather than to G. trifidum makes its position quite clear.

Wellesley College.

ERRATA.

Page 28, line 12; for ton read tun.

38, "1; omit the comma after those. 66, "2, 3; omit by the Vienna Rules.

" 66, " 4; for for us read by the Vienna Rules.

" 67, " 38; after Collect insert a period.

" 85, " 42; for COMGLOMERATUS read CONGLOMERATUS.

" 86, " 33; for Buchenan read Buchenau." 96, " 31; for Leharpe read Laharpe.

" 98, " 3; for T. read J.

" 103, " 30; for Euphasia read Euphrasia.

" 140, " 21; for serypllifolia read serpyllifolia.

" 160, " 17; for of read for.

" 170, " 15; for Grey read Gray.

" 186, " 9; for lanceolatus, read lanceolata.

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